

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 stand cancelled and new claims 28-35 have been added. No new matter is presented by virtue of the within amendments. Support therefore can be found throughout the application.

It is submitted that the above amendments may be properly entered at this time, i.e., after final rejection, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116, because the amendments do not require a new search or raise any new issues, and they reduce issues for appeal. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that the within amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Thus, entry of the amendments at this time is earnestly solicited.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 25-27 are merely objected to because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a driver circuit comprising a switching means as recited in those claims.

Referring to the only outstanding rejection, claims 14-23 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over Ajit et al. (Publication No. US 2003/0122606A1).

Applicants submit that the cited reference does not teach or suggest the driver circuit of the present invention in any manner sufficient to sustain the §102 rejection for the reasons already made of record. Nonetheless, in order to expedite allowance of the application, claims 14-23 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 28-35. Indeed, new independent claims 28, 34 and 35 recite the subject matter of former claims 25-27, which claims were indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record. New claims 29-33 recite those additional features which were the subject of former claims 16, 18 and 21-23.

Accordingly, the §102 rejection is properly withdrawn and it is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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